

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the final Office Action mailed October 31, 2003. This Amendment is filed concurrently with a Change of Correspondence Address, Petition for Extension of Time, and a Notice of Appeal for this application. Claims 31-39, 41-43, 45-49 and 57 are now pending in the application.

This case was transferred to our firm on or about April 8, 2004. In the course of this transfer, a response was not timely prepared and filed by the statutory deadline of April 30, 2004. The application was unintentionally abandoned. Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner for revival of this application.

At the outset, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner in paragraph 5 of the Office Action for the indication that claims 32, 33, 37-39, 41-43, 46-49, and 57 are allowable.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 31, and 34-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In response, Applicant has amended claim 31 to be in independent form. In addition, applicant notes that dependent claim 36 indirectly depends from allowed claim 31, and therefore should be allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 29, 30, 40, 44, and 50-56 are canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these canceled claims in, e.g., a continuation application. Claims 41 and 45 are amended to depend from allowed independent claim 57 and to clarify antecedent basis.

Application No.: 10/018,324

Docket No.: H0681.0006

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: June 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Robert G. Gingher

Registration No.: 45,755

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP

1177 Avenue of the Americas

41st Floor

New York, New York 10036-2714

(212) 835-1400

Attorney for Applicant